

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A necklace strand jewelry device comprising:  
a strand having ~~two ends~~ a first end and a second end,  
~~a hook component attached to each end of the strand,~~  
~~the hook components capable of interaction with reversible attachment of the ends~~  
~~together;~~  
a connector assembly for reversibly coupling the first end and the second end of  
the strand,  
at least one band fixedly attached to the strand, and  
~~two or more beads,~~  
~~each bead having a bore of diameter greater than the diameter of the band and~~  
~~greater than the diameter of the hook component attached to one end of~~  
~~the strand, thereby allowing the stranding of the bead on the strand, and~~  
at least one keeper ~~having a bore and an outside diameter greater than the bore of~~  
~~the bead,~~  
wherein the keeper capable of interacting interacts with the band with reversible  
attachment of the band and keeper, thereby restricting to restrict the  
movement of the a bead when the bead resides on the strand.
2. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 1,  
wherein the a bore of the keeper is threaded ~~on its surface~~ and the band is threaded on its  
an external surface, the threaded-surface bore of the keeper and the threaded surface of  
the band capable of interaction; to ~~thereby reversibly fixing~~ fix the threaded keeper on  
the strand.
3. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 1,  
wherein the keeper comprises two hollow sections hinged together, each section having  
two walls, each wall having a notch, each notch of depth approximating one half the  
diameter of the strand, the sections and the band capable of interaction by the hinged  
keeper engulfing the band, thereby to reversibly fixing fix the hinged keeper on the  
strand.

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Necklaces and Bracelets With Keepers

4. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 3 wherein the sections are reversibly secured in a closed position by a latch attached to one section.

5. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 1 further comprising at least one threaded keeper and at least one hinged keeper.

6. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 5 wherein the threaded keeper and the hinged keeper further comprise decorative elements.

7. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 6 wherein the decorative element of the threaded keeper differs from the decorative element of the hinged keeper.

8. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 2 wherein the threaded keeper has any three-dimension geometric shape.

9. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 3 wherein the hinged keeper has any three-dimension geometric shape.

10. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 2 wherein the threaded keeper has a cylindrical, spherical, cubic, or pyramid shape.

11. (Currently Amended) The necklace strand jewelry device of claim 3 wherein the threaded keeper has a cylindrical, spherical, cubic or pyramid shape.

12. (Currently Amended) The A process of reversibly restricting the movement of beads on a strand, wherein the beads have bores and are strung on a the strand by their bores, and a band having an external diameter less than the diameter of the bead bores is fixed on the strand, comprising the step:

- a. attaching to the band a keeper having an external diameter greater than the diameter of the bead bores.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12 wherein the band has an external thread and the keeper has a threaded bore, the keeper attached to the band by the steps comprising:

- a. threading the keeper onto the strand,
- b. bringing the keeper and the band into contact, and
- c. rotating the keeper, thereby engaging to engage the band and the keeper threads and attaching attach the keeper to the band.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12 wherein the keeper has two hollow sections hinged together comprising the steps:

- a. positioning the hinged keeper over a the band, and
- b. closing the hinged keeper over the band, thereby attaching to attach the keeper to the band.

15. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 1, further comprising at least one bead having a hole of sufficient size to pass over an element of the connector mechanism to permit residence of the bead on the strand, the size of the hole being insufficient to permit passage of the bead over the keeper.

16. (New) A strand jewelry device that is selectively configurable by a wearer for positional bead retention, comprising:

a strand having

a first end,

a second end, and

at least one band of variant cross-section with respect to adjacent

portions of the strand that are immediately adjacent to the band;

a connector assembly for detachably coupling the first end with the second end of the strand to configure the strand as a loop;

at least one keeper configured and arranged for selective placement around the band,

the keeper having a bore of complementary dimensions with respect to the variant cross-section such that the keeper is retained in position at the band by abutment when installed on the band,

the keeper having sufficient outer dimensions to prevent the beads from moving across the keeper when the beads are installed on the strand.

17. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, further comprising at least one bead.

18. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 17, wherein the band comprises a material circumscribing the strand to provide the variant cross-section as a larger circumference with respect to the strand, the bead defining a hole of sufficient dimension to pass over the larger circumference.

19. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 18, wherein the variant cross-section of the band includes the band having a threaded outer surface.

20. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 19, wherein the bore of the keeper is internally threaded and the complimentary dimensions of the bore are taken with respect to abutment between the threaded outer surface and internal threads of the bore.

21. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 18, wherein the band has a smooth outer surface.

22. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the keeper has a bivalve construction for clamping around the band.

23. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the bivalve construction comprises

- a hinge pivotally connecting
- a first bivalve element with
- a second bivalve element, and

a latch positioned for connecting the first bivalve element with the second bivalve element in a closed configuration that defines the bore.

24. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the bore comprises longitudinal notches running parallel with the strand.

25. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the strand presents a diameter and the longitudinal notches have a hemispherical construction approximating one half the diameter of the strand.

26. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, comprising a plurality of the keepers, the plurality of the keepers including at least one threaded keeper and at least one hinged keeper.

27. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the threaded keeper and the hinged keeper each present a decorative motif.

28. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 27, wherein the decorative element of the threaded keeper differs from the decorative element of the hinged keeper.

29. (New) A strand jewelry device comprising:  
a strand;  
means for selectively configuring the strand as a loop;  
means for adapting a circumference of the band; and  
means for keeping beads on an area of the strand by interaction with the means for adapting.

30. (New) The strand jewelry device of claim 29, further comprising a plurality of decorative beads positioned on the strand by the means for keeping.